PATENT
Group 3745

AMENDMENT(S) TO THE CLAIMS

1. (cancelled)

2. (previously presented) A hydraulic system comprising:

a hydraulic pressure source;

a tank;

a first hydraulic load associated with a first load function;

a second hydraulic load associated with a second load function; and

an independent metering valve assembly comprising: a first controllable infinitely variable valve being structured and arranged to control flow between the hydraulic pressure source and the first hydraulic load and a second controllable infinitely variable valve being structured and arranged to control flow between the hydraulic pressure source and the second hydraulic load,; said first and second controllable infinitely variable valves having inlets concomitantly fluidly connected to the hydraulic pressure source through a common inlet,

wherein said first load being independently and separably operable relative said second load through said first controllable valve, said first hydraulic load including one of a fan motor and a brake, and said second hydraulic load including the other one of the fan motor and the brake.

3. (cancelled)

4. (previously presented) The hydraulic system of claim 2, said second hydraulic load including a pair of brakes, and including an adjustable valve fluidly interconnecting said

second outlet with each of said brakes, said adjustable valve controlling an amount of flow from said second outlet to each of said brakes.

5-20 (cancelled)

21. (previously presented) A hydraulic system, comprising:

a hydraulic pressure source;

a first hydraulic load associated with a first load function;

a second hydraulic load associated with a second load function, the second hydraulic load including a pair of brakes;

an independent metering valve assembly including a plurality of independently and electronically controllable valves, said independent metering valve assembly including an inlet fluidly coupled with said pressure source, a first outlet fluidly coupled with said first hydraulic load, and a second outlet fluidly coupled with said second hydraulic load; and

an adjustable valve controlling an amount of flow from said second outlet to each of said brakes.

22. (previously presented) A work machine, comprising:

a frame;

a hydraulic system carried by said frame, said hydraulic system including:

a hydraulic pressure source;

a first hydraulic load associated with a first load function;

a second hydraulic load associated with a second load function, the second hydraulic load including a pair of brakes;

an independent metering valve assembly including a plurality of independently and electronically controllable valves, said independent metering valve assembly including an inlet fluidly coupled with said pressure source, a first outlet fluidly coupled with said first hydraulic load, and a second outlet fluidly coupled with said second hydraulic load; and

an adjustable valve controlling an amount of flow from said second outlet to each of said brakes.

23-26 (cancelled)

27. (previously presented) A method of controlling output of a first hydraulic load and a second hydraulic load using a common independent metering valve assembly, the method comprising:

directing fluid from a pressure source to a first hydraulic load through a first controllable infinitely variable valve;

communicating fluid from the pressure source to a second hydraulic load through a second controllable infinitely variable valve; and

controlling flow downstream of one of the first or second hydraulic loads through a third controllable infinitely variable valve being fluidly connected between the one of the first or second hydraulic loads and a tank;

wherein the first hydraulic load consists of a fan system and the second hydraulic load consists of a braking system.

28. (previously presented) The method of claim 27, further comprising the step of directing priority flow to the braking system.

29. (previously presented) A hydraulic system, comprising:

a hydraulic pressure source;

a tank;

a first hydraulic load associated with a first load function;

a second hydraulic load associated with a second load function; and

an independent metering valve assembly comprising: a first controllable valve being structured and arranged to control flow between the hydraulic pressure source and the first hydraulic load and a second controllable valve being structured and arranged to control flow between the hydraulic pressure source and the second hydraulic load, said first and second controllable valves having inlets concomitantly fluidly connected to the hydraulic pressure source through a common inlet,

wherein said first load being independently and separably operable relative said second load through said first controllable valve; and

said second hydraulic load including a pair of brakes, and including an adjustable valve fluidly interconnecting said second outlet with each of said brakes, said adjustable valve controlling an amount of flow from said second outlet to each of said brakes.

30. (cancelled)

31. (previously presented) A method of controlling output of a first hydraulic load and a second hydraulic load using a common independent metering valve assembly, the method comprising:

directing fluid from a pressure source to a first hydraulic load through a first controllable valve;

communicating the directed fluid from the pressure source to a second hydraulic load through a second controllable valve; and

controlling flow downstream of one of the first or second hydraulic loads through a third controllable valve being fluidly connected between the one of the first or second hydraulic loads and a tank;

wherein the first hydraulic load consists of a fan system and the second hydraulic load consists of a braking system; and

further comprising the step of directing priority flow to the braking system.